

## The Wonder of Christmas Part 1

### His Birth into Our Messy Lives

November 27<sup>th</sup> 2022

#### Day 1:

*Every good and perfect gift is from above.* James 1:17a NIV

Sometimes the holidays cause stress and tension. Whether it's from shopping, playing board games with your family, or traveling—it can feel overwhelming. James (who was actually the brother of Jesus) encourages us to be thankful for the “good gifts” in our lives. The problem is, this can be hard—especially this time of year. But what if you were surrounded by more good gifts than you ever realized?

1. Take time to think about the good in your life right now. How do those things impact your life? Write down a few of the things that came to mind, and then thank God for those things.

*They found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.* Luke 2:46b NIV

When life gets messy, we need wisdom. We don't gain wisdom by accident. To be wise, we've got to go after it, and sometimes that means having people in our lives farther along in their faith we can talk to. Even Jesus practiced this! In this verse we see Jesus asking questions to the adults and teachers around Him, learning from others while He was still young.

2. This week, determine who you can learn from and who you want to grow to be more like. Then, reach out and have a conversation with them! Be honest and discuss something going on in your life where you could really use some guidance. God didn't intend for us to live life alone. God created us to learn from each other as we become more and more like God.

## Day 2:

*"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:33b  
NIV

When life is difficult, the first thing we want is for it to get better. This is what makes the first part of this verse hard to read. Jesus doesn't sugarcoat that there will be trouble in our lives. The good news though? Jesus has overcome it. Meaning, the difficulty we're facing doesn't necessarily go away, but Jesus is bigger and greater than it.

1. During this Christmas season, when there's a lot to celebrate but also hard stuff to deal with, let this verse remind you of this: Challenging circumstances don't mean God's given up on you. Troubles don't get the final word, God does.

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* 2  
Corinthians 12:9a NIV

The perfect Christmas doesn't exist. Is that great news? No. But hopefully, it's relieving news! Things will go wrong or disappoint us this season, and that's normal. But in this verse, we're reminded that in those imperfect moments, Jesus' grace is there for us. His love is enough to take care of us. He loves us enough to handle our imperfections. Even when we feel disappointed or things seem out of our control, God cares for us. Don't underestimate the power of God's desire to comfort you.

2. In times of weakness, ask God to help you remember and believe that His grace is sufficient for you. Pray and ask God for grace, strength, patience, and perspective shifts to get you through a tough time or tough season.

### Day 3:

*So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Hebrews 13:6a NIV*

God is on our side. God is your biggest fan. God isn't out to catch you misbehaving or make your life miserable, we aren't on a list that he checks twice if you are naughty or nice. And, like the writer of Hebrews says here, God is also your helper. That means you don't have to worry when life doesn't always go the way you want. Now, imagine how believing that could change the way you see difficult circumstances!

1. Today, try looking at what's going on in your life—at work as you finish up the year or at home with any thing you might have coming up—with confidence that God is looking out for you. Ask God to give you confidence that He is for you and willing to help, no matter what you're facing this week.

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14 NIV*

Christmas music is awesome! Hearing "Sleigh Ride," "Jingle Bells," or "This Christmas" brings joy and happiness to a lot of people. Jesus' birth has inspired many composers to write incredible music. this verse is recorded in the Bible as a part of a song the angels sang when Jesus was born. These words are in many Christmas songs we sing each year. They are a great reminder that Jesus coming to earth brought the gift of peace.

2. In this season, pay attention to the lyrics of your favorite Christmas songs and notice how many of them point to the birth of Jesus. Start by memorizing Luke 2:14 and listen for these words as you enjoy the Christmas season!

## Day 4

*“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 15:13 NLT

Gifts are great to receive and even better to give. During the Christmas season, we hope to receive different kinds of gifts. Now most of the time, we’re hoping for material things. But, it’s important to remember that through the birth of Jesus we received other gifts too—gifts of hope, joy, and peace. The gift of Jesus is a gift that keeps on giving and makes our lives meaningful every day. Today’s verse is a great one to remember because it can help us embrace the gift of Jesus who is our hope, joy, and peace. Material gifts are amazing to give and receive, but the gift of Jesus is timeless, limitless, and for all seasons of life.

1. During this Christmas season, pray and ask God to help you remember and appreciate the gift of Jesus and the hope, joy, and peace that He brings.

*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6

NLT

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. Jesus didn’t come to earth to be a tourist, simply checking out all the best food, cities, and excursions. His mission was way more important than that! Jesus came to earth to provide light in the darkness. This light is important for us because it overpowers the darkness in our lives and gives us hope. Jesus lights up the dark areas of our lives by serving as our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. You may ask, how can Jesus be all of this? Well, it’s because Jesus is God in a human body. God knew what we needed and sent Jesus to fulfill every one of our needs!

2. Any time you need someone to listen to you, stand up for you, comfort you, give you rest, allow this verse to remind you that Jesus came to meet all of our needs.

## Day 5:

*The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!*  
Luke 2:10 NLT

you ever received good news? Maybe it was something super important like you finally getting the promotion you wanted, or your wife called to tell you she just went into labor. Or it could have been something as simple as a co-worker decided to buy you a cup of coffee on the way to work. I think good news is something that each of us has received at one point or another. With it comes a sense of relief, excitement, and even joy depending on what it may be. If you were to read more of Luke 2 and put yourself in the shoes of the Shepherds, who were told by an angel sent from God,

*“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people,”* (Luke 2:10 NIV)

you would see that the news they received was the best news of all time. The news that the one who would change everything had been born. At first, they might not have known what that truly meant but they would soon find out that it meant that the little boy that had just been born and placed in a manger would be the one to show us how to live life to the full. I think it's important to understand that this good news that the shepherds received centuries ago is the same news that allows us today to live our lives knowing that God is for us and loves us no matter what. We can remember that when God became human like us, God proved to us just how much we're loved.

1. Today, take a few minutes and write down what the good news of Christmas means to you.